

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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TAGS: OEXC, BY

SUBJECT: U.S. (FULBRIGHT) LECTURER PROGRAM

REF CU/AF (RODGERS) JAN 26 TRANSMITTAL

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT NOMINATION OF EXCELLENT FULBRIGHT CANDIDATE, MARGARET SHEIL, AND WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO ACCEPT HER FOR SECOND POSITION IN EMBASSY'S PROGRAM, SUBJECT TO COMMENTS PARA 5 BELOW. HOWEVER, GERALD PONASIK WISHES TO CONTINUE FOR SECOND YEAR; AND IN VIEW OF HIS FINE, THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE, OF HIS FAMILIARITY WITH LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACPN G PROGRAM, AND OF NEED FOR PROGRAM CONTINUITY, WE RECOMMEND RENEWAL OF HIS CONTRACT FOR A SECOND YEAR AS FIRST PRIORITY.

2. BECAUSE ENGLISH PROGRAM HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED ON WFSUMPTION THAT TWO FULBRIGHT TEACHERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTUREBN EMBASSY WISHES TO URGE IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS, HOWEVER, THE NECESSITY FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT THIS COMING ACADEMIC YEAR FOR TWO FULBRIGHT TEACHERS.

3. DURING 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR, ENGLISH CURRICULUM AT FACULTIES OF ECONOMICS AND OF SCIENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF BUJUMBURA AND BURUNDI'S NATIONAL TEACHER'S TRAINING COLLEGE HAS BECOME SMOOTH RUNNING, PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM OWING PRINCIPALLY TO TEACHING, PLANNING, AND ORGANIZING EFFORTS BY TWO U.S FULBRIGHT TEACHERS, AN EMBASSY WIFE (WHO TEACHES FULL TIME, BUT WHO WILL LEAVE IN SPRING NN 1977), AND A BRITISH COUNCIL-FUNDED LECTURER, ALL OF WHOM

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CARRY MORE THAN 20 CLASS HOURS EACH WEEK. UNFORTUNATELY,

BRITISH COUNCIL LECTURER IS LEAVING BURUNDI AT END
OF CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, AND BRIKX COUNCIL SAYS IT MAY
NOT BE ABLE TO REPLACE HER AND, AT BEST, WILL NOT EVEN KNOW
UNTIL NEXT OCTOBER WHETHER FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

4. THUS, OF GROUP OF FOUR ENGLISH TEACHERS WHO HAVE BEEN
PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR LAYING FOUNDATIONS OF AND FOR
MAINTAINING ONGOING PROGRAMS, ONLY TWO WILL CERTAINLY BE
ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR IF SECOND FULBRIGHT
POSITION IS NOT RENEWED. QUN ADDITION, PRESERVING
SZCOND POSITION WOULD PROVIDE CONTINUITY TO PROGRAM IN 1977-
78 IF CONTRACT WERE RENEWED AFTZBBSFIRST YEAR. WE SHOULD
ALSO NOTE THAT FULBRIGHTERS ARE ONLY TWO AMERICAN ASSISTANCE
PERSONNEL PF BURUNDI, ONE OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES
(PER CAPITA INCOME IS ABOUT DOLS 60/YEAR AND FALLING), WHERE
USG CONTRIBUTIONS OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY NIL.

5. REITERATING AGAIN THATWE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT SHEIL
FOR SECOND FULBRIGHT POSITION, WE NOTE THAT HER QUALIFICATIONS
GO BEYOND WHAT UNIVERSITY COULD MOST PROFITBLY EMBWOY
AT THIS TIME. SINCE TWO FULBRIGHT TEACHERS ARE CRITICAL TO
SUCCESS OF ONGOING ENGLISH PROGRAM, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO
SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ENGAGING LOWHW PRICED
TEACHER FOR WHAT IS REALLY A JUNIOR LECTURER POSITION, IF
THAT WOULD HELP RELIEVE STRAIN THAT A "FULL LECTURER"WOULD
PUT ON THE CU BUDGET.
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